Emoluments of Chairman and Members of TRAI

1243. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether salaries of Chairman and Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were higher than the highest paid Civil Service in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to curb their emoluments and powers in consultation with the CAG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) does not arise in view of (a) above.

Expansion of Telephone Network in the villages of Maharashtra

1244. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the expansion of Telephone network in the villages of Maharashtra; and

(b) the district-wise number of Adivasi villages in Maharashtra where telephone exchanges have so far been installed and telephone connections provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The telecom. network in the villages of Maharashtra is being expanded. New Telephone exchanges are being commissioned and capacity of the existing exchanges is being expanded in a planned manner to meet the growing requirement. The district-wise number of Adivasi villages where telephone exchanges have been installed and telephones have been provided are given in the statement: